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cently added to the collection at the Northwestern University, Evanston, were four feet long. The moss trails from the limbs *a la* the parasitic "Spanish moss" of the South. It is of a beautiful pea-green color.

— The streams penetrating the Gogebic Iron range, near the south shore of Lake Superior, are so black with discoloration from the ore, that fish can not live in them. This is particularly true of the Montreal river, the northern State line between Wisconsin and Michigan.

— Professor Henry L. Osborne, of Lafayette, Indiana, has taken the position of editor of the American Monthly Microscopical Journal, during the absence of Mr. Hitchcock in Japan. We look for an improvement in the journal.

— Mr. J. A. McNeil, of Binghamton, N. Y., offers for sale forty pieces of pottery in one-half bbl., seventy-five pieces pottery and fifty stone implements in bbl. These are far above the average in style and desirability.

— The k. k. Naturhistorischen Hof-museum in Vienna has begun the publication of its annals, the first and second numbers of Vol. I having appeared.

— A single gill-net in use among the Apostle islands, in Lake Superior, is three miles long and requires an entire day to empty and set it.

— A portrait of Hermann Schlegel, of Leiden, may be found in the Altenburg Mittheilungen for 1886.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES held its autumn meeting at Boston, Mass., commencing November 9. The following papers were read:

November 9th:

The solar-Lunar spectrum, by S. P. Langley; A basis of chemistry, by T. Sterry Hunt; On lemuring reversion in human dentition, by E. D. Cope; On the columella auris of the tailed Batrachia, by E. D. Cope; Change in *Mya* since the Pliocene, by Edward S. Morse; The Cave Fauna of North America, with remarks on the anatomy and origin of blind forms, by A. S. Packard.

November 10th:

Primitive forms of Cephalopoda, by Alpheus Hyatt; A case of evolution in the migration of forms, by Alpheus Hyatt; Lituities of the limestones of Phillipsburg, Canada, by Alpheus Hyatt; A chart of the stars in the group *Præsepe*, by C. H. F. Peters; A catalogue of stars from positions in various astronomical periodicals, by C. H. F. Peters; A catalogue of bright lines observed in the atmosphere of β Lyræ, by O. T. Sherman; On the relative motions of the Pleiades group deduced from measurements made with the Königsberg and Yale College heliometers, by W. L. Elkin.

November 11th:

Archæological explorations in the Little Miami valley, Ohio, conducted by F. W. Putnam and C. L. Metz, by F. W. Putnam; Draper memorial photographs, by F. C. Pickering; Some observations with Pritchard's wedge photometer, by C. A. Young; The question of barometer exposure, by C. Abbe; On the construction of new tables of Saturn, by G. W. Hill; On the relation of the Green Mountain rocks to the Taconic, by R. Pumpelly; Hardness and chemical indifference in solids, by T. Sterry Hunt; On wind as a seed-carrier in relation to one of the most difficult problems in geographical distribution, by Alfred Russell Wallace.

The sessions were held in the Institute of Technology. On Wednesday evening, November 10th, the academy was entertained at the house of General Francis Walker, president of the institute.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, Oct. 30, 1886.—Communications: Mr. Wm. H. Seaman, Notes on *Marsilia quadrifolia*; Dr. Theo. Gill, The characteristics of tæniosomous fishes.

Nov. 13.—Communications: Dr. Filip Trybom, of Stockholm, Recent progress in zoölogy in Sweden; Mr. J. W. Chickering, Jr., Travels in Alaska; Mr. Wm. H. Dall, Historical notes on the department of the U. S. National Museum.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Oct. 18, 1886.—The following paper was read: Earthquakes: what is known and believed about them by geologists, by Professor John S. Newberry.

Oct. 25.—The following paper was read: Notes on the geology of Block island and Nantucket, by Mr. F. J. H. Merrill.

Nov. 1.—The subject of earthquakes and volcanic action formed the basis of a discussion, supplementary to the paper of Oct. 18.

Nov. 8.—The following paper was presented: A limit to the height of atmosphere, by Dr. Henry A. Mott.

Nov. 15.—The following paper was presented: Recent investigations on the mitigation of pathogenic Bacteria (with illustrations by the lantern and microscope), by Mr. C. E. Pellew.

Nov. 29.—Professor Albert R. Leeds, of the Stevens Institute of Technology, read his paper on the purification of water supplies, announced for the 22d, and unavoidably postponed.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, Oct. 6, 1886.—At the first meeting after the summer vacation, Professor W. O. Crosby described the geology of the region known as "Paradise," near Newport, R. I. It had previously been studied by several geologists, the latest being Mr. Dale. The chief points brought out were that the middle ridges of the region were not stratified rocks as they had usually been regarded, but intrusion veins. This fact necessarily changed the veins of the axes of the stratified slates forming the outer ridges.

Professor Wm. T. Sedgwick exhibited some apparatus recently devised at the Institute of Technology for elementary teaching

of some facts in human physiology. There were models to show the various proportions of water, proteids, fats, etc., in the human body, and in the daily income and outgo. Then in bottles were shown the relative proportions of the same constituents in milk, butter, meal, etc.; while charts illustrated the comparative food value of twenty-five cents' worth of some forty common food stuffs. Incidentally it was brought out that the pork and beans for which Boston is so celebrated, was a natural dish and one which could hardly be excelled for nutritious qualities, while oleo-margarine is a benefit to all mankind, the farmers excepted. The apparatus will doubtless prove of great value in conveying to pupils in our common schools a knowledge of just those principles of physiology which will be of the most value in after life.

Oct. 20.—Mr. S. H. Scudder described the mode of life of a fossil beetle.

Nov. 3.—Mr. James H. Emerton described the anatomical changes undergone by the milkweed butterfly in its chrysalis stage; and also spoke of the flying spiders on Boston common.

Nov. 17.—Dr. George L. Goodale reviewed recent investigations relative to the absorption of coloring matter by living vegetable cells.